

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

THE CENTRE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH,

Conway, Leake County, Mississippi,

September 26, 27, and 28, 1868.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

CLARION STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1868.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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SATURDAY, Sept. 26, A. D. 1868.

The Harmony Baptist Association met this day in her 19th Annual Session, with the Center Hill Church, Leake County, pursuant to adjournment.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder R. G. BARRETT, from the 18th chap. and part of the 36th verse of John—"My kingdom is not of this world." At the conclusion of which the Association adjourned for one hour.

EVENING SESSION—2 o'clock.

The Association again met at this hour, and was called to order by the Moderator, and was opened by praise: Prayer by the Moderator.

No announcement of preaching was made at this hour, owing to a wish of the audience to witness the proceedings of the body.

Bros. F. C. DAVIS, and WM. GRAVES were appointed to read the correspondence from the churches.

Bros. GREEN ALLEN and W. COCKEROTT, were added to the Finance Committee in the stead of the two absent members.

Letters were now read from thirteen churches, and statistics minuted.

The body now proceeded to the election of officers.

Bros. JACKSON BROWN and WM. GRAVES were appointed Tellers, who, after receiving the vote of the body announced the following election, to-wit:

*WM. McMURTRAY, Moderator.

*J. N. DENSON, Clerk.

†F. C. DAVIS, Treasurer.

BRO. Wm. Graves, was received as a delegate from Salem Church. Letters from corresponding bodies was now called for, whereupon

*Re-elected. †Bro. W. W. ELEY, who had served for eighteen years as Treasurer, was not re-elected, by an expressed wish on his part to be relieved.

a letter and package of minutes were presented from the Mt. Pisgah Association.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.—*To arrange preaching during the present session.*—R. Redding, D. J. Barnett, P. H. Bilbro, Wm. Cockcroft, Issac Merchant, Wm. Merchant.

On Correspondence.—J. S. Antley, R. G. Barrett, D. J. Barnett.

State of Religion.—Isaac Merchant, W. W. Stewart, R. Redding.

Petitions and Requests.—F. C. Davis, Thos. Tucker, J. W. Smith.

Nominations.—J. Beard, Swayne Morehead, W. W. Eley.

On motion, the following Special Committees were raised as follows, to-wit:

Ministerial Education.—J. S. Antley, F. C. Davis, W. S. Rushing, to which, by motion, the Moderator was added.

Publications.—D. J. Barnett, P. H. Bilbro, N. M. Finley.

Missions.—J. M. Pearson, J. N. Denson, N. M. Finley.

Pending the appointment of Committees, the Committee on preaching reported as follows, to-wit:

For Sabbath Services.—Elder J. S. Antley, to preach at 11 o'clock, A. M. Elder McMurtray, at 2 P. M., and announced if the congregation would justify, they would also arrange preaching on to-morrow for the Methodist Church.

The body again resumed the appointment of Committees as follows:

Sabbath Schools.—D. J. Barnett, W. W. Eley, J. S. Antley, W. W. Nichols, Wm. Gravis.

The queries from Mt. Carmel Church, were called up, and referred to a Select Committee, consisting of J. S. Antley, J. M. Pearson, W. S. Rushing and Thos. Tucker, to which by motion, the Moderator was added.

On motion of Bro. Davis, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That Ministerial Education, be made a Standing Committee.

The body now adjourned to 9 o'clock, Monday morning.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, A. D. 1868,
11 o'clock, A. M.

Elder J. S. Antley at this hour, preached from the 18th Chap., 18-20 verses of Matthew, "Go ye, therefore, teach all nations, baptizing them, &c."

At the same hour, Elder J. M. Pearson preached at the Methodist Church from Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy, 4th Chap., and part of 2nd verse, "Preach the Word."

A Collection was taken up of these congregations, amounting to \$9.30.

SUNDAY EVENING.—2 o'clock.

Elder W. McMurtray preached at this hour to a large and attentive audience, and we hope the labors of the day may tell in eternity for good upon all those who heard.

MONDAY'S PROCEEDINGS,

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, A. M.,
September 28th, A. D. 1868.

The Association convened at this hour, pursuant to adjournment, and was opened by praise: Prayer by Elder W. S. RUSHING.

The Moderator made some appropriate remarks, and then announced the body in order for the transaction of business.

Bro. W. W. ELEY, in consequence of illness, was excused from further attendance on the body.

Bro. S. C. BILLINGSLEY, of the Mt. Pisgah church, appeared as the delegate from that church, and presented her letter, which was read and he welcomed to a seat.

Bros. J. W. SMITH and SWAYNE MOREHEAD, were, in consequence of sickness, excused from further attendance on the body.

The body now proceeded to the reception of reports of Committees in the following order:

The Committee on Correspondence was called for, and not being ready to report was granted further time.

The Committee on State of Religion reported progress and was granted further time.

The Committee on Petitions and Requests made its report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix A.)

The Committee on Ministerial Education was granted further time.

The Committee on Publications was also granted further time.

The Committee on Missions made its report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix B.)

The Committee on Sabbath Schools, was granted further time.

The Committee on Nominations, made its report, which was received and adopted. (See appendix C.)

The Committee on Finance was granted further time.

The Committee on Correspondence now made its report, which was adopted in manuscript.

The Committee on State of Religion, made its report, which being found incomplete, was recommitted with instructions to report as soon as practicable.

The Committee on Ministerial Education made its report, which was received and adopted. (See appendix D.)

In accordance with the suggestions of the Committee, the following Brothers were appointed to carry out the spirit of the report, to-wit:

1st District, Elder J. S. Antley, 2nd District, Elder Alfred Marshall, 3d District, Dr. J. M. Kelly.

The Committee on State of Religion made its report, which was received, and adopted. (See Appendix E.)

The Committee on Publication made its report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix F.)

The Select Committee to whom was referred the queries from the Mt. Carmel Church, made its report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix G.)

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made its report, which was received, and while pending was amended by striking out the quotation "Suffer little children to come unto me," &c., and was then adopted as amended. (See Appendix H.)

The Association now adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION—2 o'clock, P. M.

The body convened at this hour pursuant to adjournment.

The Finance Committee made its report, together with Treasurer's, which were received and adopted. (See Appendix I.)

Bro. J. McBeath was excused from further attendance on this body.

The Association now took up the appointment of Corresponding Messengers to other bodies, whereupon, the following appointments were made, to-wit:

Mt. Pisgah Association.—J. N. Denson, W. S. Rushing, J. M. Pearson, Wm. McMurtray, P. M. Gaddis, T. J. Denson.

Central Association.—Alfred Marshall, J. M. Whitfield.

Kosciusko Association.—R. G. Barrett, W. S. Rushing, W. W. Stewart.

Strong River Association.—P. M. Gaddis, J. H. Whitfield, Wm. M. Taylor.

Baptist State Convention.—J. N. Denson, J. S. Antley, W. W. Nichols, D. J. Barnett, Jackson Brown.

On motion it was resolved, that we re-open correspondence with the Louisville Association, upon the adoption of which, the following appointments were made:—Jackson Brown, D. J. Barnett, R. G. Barrett.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolved, That the time of meeting of this body, be changed from Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, to Saturday before the 4th in October; and continue from day to day until all reasonable business is transacted; and that no member be allowed to absent himself, without special leave of the Moderator.

Resolved, That this Association hereby tenders its unfeigned thanks to our much esteemed Brother, W. W. Eley, for the faithful and efficient manner he has served this Association, as Treasurer from its organization to the present time.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered to this Church and community, for the hospitable manner in which they have entertained the delegates, messengers and visitors, during the present session of this body.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered to our Methodist brethren, for the use of their house of worship, during the session of this body.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Association, be instructed and authorized to forward to the Editors of the different religious newspapers, that we have agreed to adopt as our organs, to-wit:—"The South Carolina Baptist," published at Anderson Court House, "Kind Words," published at Memphis, Tennessee, and "The Baptist," also published at the latter place.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be ordered to pay over the amounts in his hands, to the different objects specified.

Resolved, That the Clerk address a letter to each Church not represented, requesting them to send to him, the number of minutes they desire, and funds for printing them.

Resolved, That the Clerk be allowed (\$15) fifteen dollars, and the Treasurer (\$5) five dollars for their services.

The Association now adjourned after a very harmonious session, amid much good feeling, to meet with the Jerusalem Baptist Church, Ludlow, Scott County, on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October, A. D. 1869.

J. N. DENSON, Clerk.

WM. McMURTRAY, Moderator.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

We the Committee on "Petitions and Requests," beg leave to report, that we recommend Jerusalem Baptist Church, Scott County, as the place for holding our next annual session.

Respectfully submitted,

F. C. DAVIS, Chairman.

APPENDIX B.

We your Committee on Missions, beg leave to submit the following report:

The subject of Missions is one that should commend itself to every believer's heart; and whereas, there are very many of the widows and orphans of our deceased soldiers that are left destitute of the preached word, and as such are bequeathed to us as a sacred legacy; and, whereas, from them comes up the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us;" therefore,

Resolved, That we urge upon our Churches and brethren, the obligations we are specially under, to supply their wants in this destitution, and request them to use every effort, to assist the Executive Board in the consummation of this end. And further,

While your Committee would deem it impracticable to constitute a church in the vicinity of an organized church, to the detriment on the same, yet we would recommend, that whenever there is destitution indeed, it should be supplied by this Association as far as its means will justify.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. PEARSON, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

We your Committee on Nominations, would submit the following report:

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Wm. McMURTRAY, *President.*

J. N. DENSON, *Secretary.*

F. C. DAVIS, *Treasurer.*

J. C. Antley,
Green Allen,
J. M. Pearson,
Henry Collier,
P. M. Gaddis,

Alfred Marshall,
D. J. Barnett,
J. Beard,
W. W. Nichols,
R. G. Barrett,

Wm. Cockerott,
W. S. Rushing,
Robt. Reading,
T. E. Morris.

We also recommend the following appointments.

To preach the next Introductory Sermon: Elder Alfred Marshall;
Alternate,—Elder T. E. Morris.

To preach the Missionary Sermon—Wm. McMurtray.

J. BEARD, *Chairman.*

APPENDIX D.

We, your Committee on Ministerial Education, beg leave to make the following report:

WHEREAS, there exists at this time an alarming and growing tendency on the part of the world to infidelity, and a disposition to pervert and mystify the Word of God, which creates, on the part of Christians, and Baptists particularly, the necessity of an Educated Ministry, in order that we may be able to give an intelligible and Scriptural reason for the "Hope that is within us," and thus to stop the mouths of gainsayers; therefore, we would respectfully recommend the appointment of a standing committee of three—one from each Associational District, to visit each church within their respective districts and enquire among them for ministerial gifts, and request the churches to raise as much funds as possible for this object, and report the same to the next meeting of the Executive Board, or to the next annual meeting of this Association.

J. S. ANTLEY, *Chr'n.*

APPENDIX E.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Antioch—Cold and desires your prayers.

Bethesda—In peace, but nothing cheering.

Brandon—Not represented.

Center Hill—In a cold state, and desires your prayers.

Canaan—Greatly revived, and many additions.

Drake's Creek—Nothing cheering, but hopes for a better day.

Friendship—In a cold condition.

- Good Hope, (Madison,)—In peace and harmony.
 Good Hope, (Leake,)—Cold and languishing.
 Hayes' Creek—Not represented.
 Jerusalem—Stands firm on the rock, but cold.
 Liberty—Not represented.
 Mt. Pisgah—Cold, but wants a revival.
 Mt. Zion—Not represented.
 Pensacola—Partially revived, but wants an inundating shower.
 Pleasant Hill—Not revived, but in peace.
 Pleasant Grove—Not represented.
 Rehoboth—In a languid condition.
 Thomastown—Nothing cheering.
 Mt. Sinai—Not represented.
 Bethlehem—Is hopeful of a better day.
 Salem—Languid.
 New Prospect—Not represented.
 Mt. Carmel—Where sin did abound, grace much more abounds.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC MERCHANT, Chairman.

APPENDIX F.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

We your Committee on Publication, have had the subject under consideration, and in the absence of a denominational paper published in our State, through which we can set forth our principles as Baptists, forcing us to leave the State in search of such an organ; in doing so our minds naturally revert back to our native State, and have made choice of the "South Carolina Baptist," published at Anderson Court House, South Carolina, by our own worthy and esteemed brother, Rev. W. E. Walters. Brother Walters is a man of great ability, and exemplary piety, and a brave defender of Baptist doctrine, and besides, the contributors to this paper are men of the first order in point of talent, such as Dr. R. Farman, Dr. Wm. Williams, Dr. J. C. Furman, Dr. J. A. Broadus, Dr. B. Manly, jr., Dr. Reynolds and others. Also, Brother B. W. Whilden, Missionary to China, and Brother Read, Missionary to, and is now in Africa, are reckoned among its list of contributors. All of these facts combined, in our judgment, make it one of the ablest papers now published in the South, and well deserves the patronage of the Denomination.

There is also, "Kind Words," published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This is a Sunday School paper, published at Memphis, Tenn., which can be obtained monthly at 20 cents a copy in clubs of fifteen to one address, by forwarding the money to T. B. Kingsbury, D. D., Editor, and think that each Sabbath school and church in this Association, should send for this paper.

There is also, "The Baptist," published at Memphis, Tenn., by

Elder J. R. Graves, whose history is of world-wide celebrity among Baptists of this country.

His paper has had a circulation in this section of the State, and the merits of which is well understood.

In conclusion, your committee would impress upon your minds the importance of taking and reading religious papers, as they are calculated to heighten the standard of christian piety and implant Baptist principles in the minds of our children and perchance may be the means in the hands of God of converting their souls.

Respectfully submitted.

D. J. BARNETT, Chairman.

APPENDIX G.

Report of Select Committee to whom was referred the Queries from Mt. Carmel Church :

Query.—Is it scriptural and therefore right for a church to exclude one of her members for conduct previous to the existence of the church?

Answer.—We are of the opinion that she has no such right, unless a knowledge of the facts came to light subsequent to the organization of the church.

Query.—If an individual who is known to be a wicked and profane man, sees a member commit an unchristian act, and after the lapse of two, three or five years becomes a member himself, is this testimony Gospel testimony, when given under these circumstances enumerated?

Answer.—We would regard it as Gospel testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. ANTLEY, Chairman.

APPENDIX H.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We apprehended that there are very few persons now to be found, who are so bold as to oppose the claims of the Sabbath Schools, upon the prayerful consideration of all. Indeed we here find a subject so vast in its bearings, that we feel that it cannot be presented in too strong a light. The Bible through its sacred pages, woos us to its contemplation, and it may well command the attention of men on Earth, and angels in Heaven. "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth." "Train up a child the way he should go." These and many others of similar import, are pointed teachings directed to us, and we dare not disregard them.

How can we, then, best feed the dear lambs of the flock, and how can we most efficiently accomplish their spiritual training? We answer: Let the young soil be broken up and prepared to receive the good seed. This can scarcely be better effected than in the Sabbath Schools. Here the little ones come in contact with the mature christian who will lead them gently along the still waters, and accustom them to look up to that bright world, where all is peace, and joy, and love.

We therefore, respectfully recommend that the different churches composing this Association, organize at once Sabbath Schools in their midst, and as far as practicable, the members of said churches, to become members of the Sabbath Schools, and be organized into Bible Classes.

We further recommend that the churches send up a report in their letters to the Association, stating the number of Superintendents, Librarians, Teachers, and Pupils, also, the number of volumes in Library.

And we further recommend that the Ministers belonging to this Association, deliver semi-annual Sabbath School addresses to their respective congregations; and, also, that this body appoint one or more suitable brethren, whose duty it shall be to deliver Sabbath school addresses, on Sabbath afternoon, at its next annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

D. J. BARNETT, Chairman.

APPENDIX I.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Am't sent up by Churches, Associational Fund,	\$86 50
" " for R. Crenshaw, S. A. M.,	31 90
" " for J. Rushing, S. A. M.,	11 85
" collected on Lord's Day, Asso. Fund,	9 15
Total,	\$139 40

TREASURER'S REPORT.

WM. W. ELEY, *In account with Harmony Association.*
September 23, 1867. *Dr.*

To this am't received of Finance Committee,

\$195 63

WM. W. ELEY, *In account with Harmony Association.*

September 23, 1867. *Cr.*

By this am't paid R. Crenshaw, S. A. M.,	\$54 93
" " " W. McMurtray, Missionary,	24 25
" " " J. N. Denson, Clerk,	95 00
" " " W. McMurtray, Messenger,	6 50
" " " allowed Treasurer, Salary,	10 00
" " " due Treasurer, per last report,	5 00

\$195 63

(Signed,)

W. W. ELEY, Treasurer.

We have examined the Treasurer's report and find it correct.
All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. W. NICHOLS,

Chr'mn Finance Committee.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, H. B. ASSOCIATION,
For Associational year 1867-8.

We your Executive Board, beg to submit the following report:
In accordance to the suggestions of the Committee on Missions, adopted by your body at the last session, the Board met at Good Hope, (Leake,) in December last, and proceeded to receive reports from ministers within our bounds. Quite a number of points of destitution were reported, but the Board being without means, was unable to supply any point. Happily, however, for us in this extremity the ministers came to our relief, and voluntarily agreed to preach at points of destitution without charge.

The Board accepted this offer, and agreed if any contributions were made by the churches, that it should be distributed equally among such local missionaries, according to services rendered, provided such *pro rata* did not exceed one and a half dollars per diem.

The following is the account of services rendered by those local Missionaries with the station and total days devoted.

Elder Wm. McMurtray—Battle's School House, Carthage, Booser School House, Rushing's School House—16 days.
Elder R. G. Barrett—Poplar Springs—3 days.
Elder J. S. Antley—Harmony Old Church—2 days.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTINUED.

The following amounts were contributed by the churches named, for Home Missions:

Mt. Carmel Church,	\$9 40
Pensacola "	10 55

Respectfully submitted,
WM. McMURTRAY, President.

J. N. DENSON, Sec'y.

Names of Ministers Ordained and Licentiates, and their Post Offices.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Wm. McMurtray, Thomastown; Wm. Robinson, Goshen Springs; John Rushing, Carthage; Wm. Densen, Goshen Springs; P. M. Gaddis, Good Hope; J. S. Antley, Good Hope; S. J. Denson, Ludlow; A. Marshall, Camden; Isaac Merchant, Conway; R. Crenshaw, Carthage; J. Marshall, Brandon; J. S. Tucker, Carthage; R. G. Barrett, Camden.

LICENTIATES.

J. E. Pearson, Ludlow; Jesse Marshall, Canton.
P. S.—The above list may be incorrect in some particulars, and the list of Licentiates incomplete, owing to a failure in the churches to report the same in their statistics.

CLERK

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Chairman.

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... 31 90
... 11 85
... 9 15
\$139 40

Association.

Dr.

... \$195 63

Association.

Cr.

854 93
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95 00
6 50
10 00
5 00
\$195 68

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mittee.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF HARMONY

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	DELEGATES' NAMES.
1 Antioch,	Edinburg,	Leake,	C. A. Walton, Thomas Tucker,
2 Bethesda,	Canton,	Madison,	Letter,
3 Brandon,	Brandon,	Rankin,	Not Represented,
4 Bethlehem,	Morton,	Scott,	Letter. [Redding, N. M. Watkins,
5 Centre Hill,	Conway,	Leake,	Isaac Merehant, W. Cockroft, Robt.
6 Canaan,	Thomaston,	Madison,	W. W. Stewart,
7 Doakes' Creek,	Canton,	Madison,	W. W. Nichols,
8 Fellowship,	Walnut Grove,	Leake,	W. S. Rushing, N. M. Finley,
9 Friendship,	Good Hope,	Leake,	F. C. Davis,
10 Good Hope,	Camden,	Madison,	R. G. Barrett, J. W. Smith,
11 Hayes' Creek,	Hillsboro',	Scott,	Letter forwarded to Clerk,
12 Jerusalem,	Ludlow,	Scott,	J. M. Pearsop, J. N. Denson,
13 Liberty,	Brandon,	Rankin,	Not Represented,
14 Mt. Carmel,	Edinburgh,	Scott,	S. Morehead,
15 Mt. Pisgah,	Goshen Springs,	Rankin,	S. C. Billingsley,
16 Mt. Zion,	High Hill,	Leake,
17 Good Hope,	Good Hope,	Leake,	J. S. Antley, W. W. Eley,
18 Mt. Sinai,	Dixon,	Neshoba,	Not Represented,
19 New Prospect,	Pelahatchie,	Rankin,	Not Represented,
20 Pelahatchie,	Fannin,	Rankin,	Not Represented,
21 Pensacola,	Carthage,	Leake,	J. Beard, Green Allen,
22 Pleasant Hill,	Carthage,	Leake,	Letter, John McBeath,
23 Pleasant Grove,	Carthage,	Leake,	Not Represented,
24 Rehoboth,	Brandon,	Rankin,	P. H. Bilbro, L. B. Bilbro,
25 Salem,	Carthage,	Leake,	Wm. Graves,
26 Thomastown,	Thomastown,	Leake,	Wm. McMurtray, D. J. Barnett,

Remarks—Number Blacks unknown.

ONY

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1867--8.

NAMES

PASTOR'S NAMES.

as Tucker,...

N. M. Watkins,
Cockroft, Robt.

M. Finley,...

Smith,
Clerk,
Denson,

Eley,

Bilbro.

J. Barnett,

Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.	Associational Fund.	Superannuated Minister, Crenshaw.	Superannuated Minister, Rushing.	Ordained Minister.	Licentiates.	Time of Conference.	No. of Minutes.	PASTOR'S NAMES.
2	1	5	1			503	00	5 00						R. G. Barrett.
						25		5 00						A. Marshall.
						26	2 95							J. M. Pearson.
						126	6 00							R. G. Barrett.
						40	5 00							J. W. Henderson.
14	6		2	1		141	3 00	5 00						A. Marshall.
						28	5 50							W. S. Rushing.
						61	6 50	1 25						P. M. Gaddis.
						114	4 40							W. McMurtray, and R. G. Barrett.
						84								
						100	6 50	4 75	5 35	2	1	1	25	J. S. Antley.
						50	3 25	10 20						Wm. McMurtray.
						52	5 00	5 00	3 50					S. J. Denson.
						40	4 50	3 70						P. M. Gaddis.
						66	4 00	2 20		1		1	25	J. S. Antley.
						60								
						123	4 65							Wm. Robinson.
						32	2 50							R. G. Barrett.
						28	2 00							A. Marshall.

